

First Record of Genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr 1866 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from India

Himender Bharti^{1*} and Joginder Singh²

Department of Zoology & Environmental Sciences, Punjabi University, Patiala - 147002, India.

(e-mail:¹himenderbharti@gmail.com, ²joginderrilta516@gmail.com)

Abstract

The genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr, 1866 is recorded for the first time from India. The species *Pristomyrmex sulcatus* Emery, 1895 has been collected from North-East Himalaya.

Keywords: Myrmicinae, *Pristomyrmex sulcatus*, India, North-East Himalaya.

Introduction

The ant genus *Pristomyrmex* Mayr comprises of 58 extant valid species restricted to the Old World tropics (Sarnat and Economo, 2013, Bolton, 2014). Most of the species occur primarily in the Oriental region, but few endemic species have been reported from Australia, Africa and Fiji. In addition, the genus has also been reported from Mauritius and temperate regions of China, Korea and Japan (Wang, 2003, Guenard et al. 2010 and Bolton, 2014). A comprehensive taxonomic revision of the genus was carried by Wang (2003). Other taxonomic contributions to the genus include, a review of the Philippine *Pristomyrmex* with three new descriptions and a key to the species (Zettel, 2006), a key to the Taiwan species (Terayama, 2009) and more recently report of a new species from Fiji (Sarnat and Economo, 2013).

As mentioned by Wang (2003) most of the *Pristomyrmex* species forage as predators and scavengers. The nests can be found in soil, litter rotten logs, in plants roots etc.

From India, the genus *Pristomyrmex* is reported for the first time. The species *Pristomyrmex sulcatus* Emery, 1895 is collected from North-East Himalaya. Earlier, this species have been recorded from China, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar.

Material Examined

3 workers, India, East Sikkim, Rorathang, 587m, 27°11'49.91"N, 88°36'12.44"E, 12.vi. 2012.



Figs. 1-3: *Pristomyrmex sulcatus* Emery, 1895
1. Head, full face view; 2. Body, lateral view;
3. Body, dorsal view.



Fig. 4: Map depicting collection site (marked by asterisk)

Ecology

The specimens were collected by Winkler's extractor from an undisturbed dense secondary forest. The thickness of leaf litter was about 4 inches. The floor of the forest receives limited sun light. The maximum temperature of the area is 28°C, minimum -1°C and rainfall 325cm per annum.

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